Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A set top terminal for generating an interactive electronic program guide for display on a television connected to the set top terminal, the terminal comprising:

a processor; and

memory storing instructions that, when executed by the processor, perform:

~~means for~~ retrieving information via a program control information signal of a program selected from a plurality of programs and watched by a subscriber;

~~means for~~ storing said information;

~~means for passively~~ identifying frequently-watched programs most often watched by said subscriber based upon said stored information ~~and tracking a number of times said subscriber watches a program~~;

~~means for~~ receiving a television signal;

~~means for extracting individual programs from the television signal;~~

~~means for~~ generating an electronic program guide for controlling display of content on a television screen based on a reprogrammable menu format stored in the memory, wherein a reprogramming of the reprogrammable menu format occurs responsive to receiving an interruption sequence on a program control information channel, and wherein the guide ~~comprising:~~ comprises a favorites menu including names of programs available for selection, wherein the programs included in the favorites menu are based on the identified frequently-watched programs;

~~means for~~ receiving selection signals from a ~~user~~subscriber input of a program that will be broadcast at a future time selected from said favorites menu;

~~means for~~ notifying said subscriber that a change of channel is imminent based upon nearing said future time of said program that will be broadcast at said future time; and

~~means for~~ changing said channel to said program at said future time.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the instructions, when executed, further ~~comprising~~ perform ~~means for~~ storing in memory identifiers of the frequently-watched programs.

4. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the ~~means for~~ retrieving of said information includes ~~means for~~ identifying frequently-watched channels and ~~means for~~ storing in memory the frequently-watched channels.

5. (original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the menu includes a list of frequently-watched programs.

6. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the ~~means for~~ generating of the electronic program guide includes ~~means for~~ generating the favorites menu to display programs selected ~~by the means for identifying~~ from the identified frequently-watched programs.

7. (currently amended) A set top terminal comprising:

means for receiving information via a program control information signal about television viewing preferences of a subscriber;

a memory that stores the information;

means for ~~passively~~ identifying frequently-watched programs most often watched by said subscriber based upon said stored information ~~and tracking a number of times said subscriber watches a program~~;

means for receiving a television signal from an operations center;

means for extracting from the television signal individual programs for display on a television associated with the terminal;

means for generating an interactive program menu on the television based on a reprogrammable menu format received from a cable head end and stored in the memory, wherein a reprogramming of the reprogrammable menu format occurs responsive to

receiving an interruption sequence on a program control information channel, listing a group of available programs, the group being selected based on said identified frequently-watched programs;

means for receiving a signal from a ~~user~~subscriber input device selecting a program available at a future time selected from said group of identified frequently-watched programs;

means for notifying said subscriber that a change of channel is imminent based upon nearing said future time of said selected program available at said future time; and

means for changing said channel to said selected program at said future time.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (original) The terminal of claim 7, wherein the television viewing preferences include frequently-watched channels.

11. – 13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The terminal of claim 7, further comprising:

means for receiving program content information for the individual programs from the operations center,

wherein the means for generating comprises means for generating the menu including said identified frequently-watched programs.

16. (currently amended) A set top terminal ~~for generating a customized menu of available programs for selection by a user, the terminal~~ comprising:

a processor; and

memory storing instructions that, when executed by the processor, perform:

~~means for receiving a television signal;~~

~~means for extracting individual programs from the television signal;~~

~~means for~~ matching individual programs to ~~said~~ a ~~user~~subscriber based upon information received via a program control information signal about television viewing preferences of said ~~user~~subscriber and ~~passively tracking a number of times said user watches a program to identify~~ identifying frequently-watched programs most often watched by said ~~user~~subscriber;

~~means for~~ generating an interactive program menu based on a reprogrammable menu format stored in the memory that displays a group of programs based on said identified frequently-watched programs, wherein a reprogramming of the reprogrammable menu format occurs responsive to receiving an interruption sequence on a program control information channel;

~~means for~~ receiving a signal from a ~~user~~subscriber input device selecting a program available at a future time selected from said group of programs based on said identified frequently-watched programs;

~~means for~~ notifying said subscriber that a change of channel is imminent based upon nearing said future time of said selected program available at said future time; and

~~means for~~ changing said channel to said selected program at said future time.

17. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 16, wherein the ~~means for~~ matching of the individual programs to said subscriber comprises ~~means for~~ matching based on information regarding content of the individual programs provided in said program control information signal.

18. - 20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

memory storing instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the apparatus to perform:

retrieving information via a program control information signal of a program selected from a plurality of programs;

storing said information;

~~passively~~ identifying frequently-watched programs most often watched by a subscriber based upon said stored information ~~and tracking a number of times said subscriber watches each of the plurality of programs~~;

receiving a television signal;

extracting individual programs from the television signal;

generating an electronic program guide based on a reprogrammable menu format stored in the memory for controlling display of content on a television screen, wherein a reprogramming of the reprogrammable menu format occurs responsive to receiving an interruption sequence on a program control information channel, and wherein the guide ~~comprising:~~ comprises a favorites menu including names of programs available for selection, wherein the programs included in the favorites menu are based on the identified frequently-watched programs;

receiving selection signals from a ~~user~~subscriber input of a program that will be broadcast at a future time selected from said favorites menu;

notifying said subscriber that a change of channel is imminent based upon nearing said future time of said program that will be broadcast at said future time; and

changing said channel to said program at said future time.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the instructions further cause the apparatus to perform:

decompressing the television signal to obtain the extracted individual programs from the television signal,

wherein said generating of said electronic program guide includes at least one of the extracted individual programs.

23. (currently amended) A method comprising:

retrieving information via a program control information signal of a program selected from a plurality of programs;

storing said information;

~~passively~~ identifying frequently-watched programs most often watched by a subscriber based upon said stored information ~~and tracking a number of times said subscriber watches each of the plurality of programs~~;

receiving a television signal;

extracting individual programs from the television signal;

generating an electronic program guide based on a reprogrammable menu format stored in a memory, wherein a reprogramming of the reprogrammable menu format occurs responsive to receiving an interruption sequence on a program control information channel, and wherein the electronic program guide ~~for controlling~~ controls display of content on a television screen, the guide comprising: a favorites menu including names of programs available for selection, wherein the programs included in the favorites menu are based on the identified frequently-watched programs;

receiving selection signals from a ~~user~~subscriber input of a program that will be broadcast at a future time selected from said favorites menu;

notifying said subscriber that a change of channel is imminent based upon nearing said future time of said program that will be broadcast at said future time; and

changing said channel to said program at said future time.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

decompressing the television signal to obtain the extracted individual programs from the television signal,

wherein said generating of said electronic program guide includes at least one of the extracted individual programs.

25. (new) The terminal of claim 1, wherein an allocation of a bandwidth associated with the received television signal is dynamically changed based on a category of programming associated with the received television signal, and wherein a menu capacity

associated with the electronic program guide is dynamically modified in response to the change in bandwidth.